# **OPTICAL SCANNER**

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Inventor(s):

KUBOTA YOJI; others: 01

Applicant(s):

SANKYO SEIKI MFG CO LTD

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## **Abstract**

PURPOSE:To effectively prevent the fluctuation in the spot shape on a scanning plane by providing a curvature of field correcting surface which corrects the curvature in a sub-scanning direction to an ftheta lens for imaging a deflected luminous flux onto the scanning plane.

CONSTITUTION: The incident side lens face 20A of the imaging lens 20 having the ftheta function to focus the deflected luminous flux from a rotating polygon mirror 16 to the scanning plane 18 is formed as the curvature of field correcting surface in such a manner that the power in the sub-scanning direction decreases gradually as said surface parts from the optical axis. The locus of the luminous flux imaging point in the sub-scanning direction curves to an arc shape unless there is this correcting surface. Then, the spot diameter has divergency and nonuniform shapes. However, the curvature of field in the sub-scanning direction is well corrected by forming the correcting surface so as to provide a prescribed radius of curvature and to decrease the power, by which the fluctuation in the spot shape is effectively prevented.

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17	(72) INVENTOR: Youji KUBOTA
18	c/o KABUSHIKI KAISHA SANKYO SEIKI SEISAKUJYO
19	5329 Shimosuwamachi, Suwa-gun, Nagano-ken
20	(72) INVENTOR: Toshiyuki INOUE
21	c/o NISSHIN KOUKI KABUSHIKI KAISHA YAMANASHI KOJYO
22	200 Wakamiko, Sutamacho, Kitakoma-gun,
23	Yamanashi-ken
24	(71) APPLICANT: KABUSHIKI KAISHA SANKYO SEIKI
25	SEISAKUJYO
26	5329 Shimosuwamachi, Suwa-gun, Nagano-ken
27	

P2 (74) ATTORNEY: Patent Attorney Hideharu WATANABE  2
3 SPECIFICATION
4
5 TITLE OF THE INVENTION
6 Light scanning apparatus
7 CLAIMS
8 1. A light scanning apparatus comprising a light
9 source, a first lens group for imaging a beam from the
10 light source as a line image extending in a direction
11 corresponding to main-scanning, a deflecting device,
12 having a plurality of deflecting surfaces, for
13 deflecting the beam about a position adjacent the line
14 image formed by said first lens group, and a second
15 lens group, disposed between the deflecting device and
16 a surface to be scanned, for imaging the deflected
17 beam as a spot on the surface to be scanned,
wherein said second lens group is an imaging
19 lens having a f $ heta$ property and is effective to focus
20 the deflected beam on the surface to be scanned with
21 respect to a main scan direction, and is effective to
22 make the surface to be scanned and the imaging
23 position of the line image by the first lens group
24 substantially conjugate with each other, and at least
25 one surface is a field curvature correcting surface,
26 and
wherein said field curvature correcting

P3 surface has a power in a sub-scan direction which 2 power gradually decreases away from the optical axis 3 in the main scan direction. 4 A light scanning apparatus according to Claim 5 6 1, wherein the power Po, in the sub-scan direction, of 7 the field curvature correcting surface of the imaging 8 lens which is the second lens group, and the power P 9 at the most peripheral portion with respect to the 10 direction corresponding to the main-scanning, satisfy: 11 0.85<P/Po< 0.98. 12 13 DETAILD DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION 14 15 (APPLICABLE FIELD OF INDUSTRY) 16 The present invention relates to a light 17 scanning apparatus. 18 (PRIOR ART) 19 A light scanning apparatus is well-known 20 which comprises a light source, a first lens group for 21 imaging a beam from the light source as a line image 22 extending in a direction corresponding to 23 main-scanning, a deflecting device, having a plurality 24 of deflecting surfaces, for deflecting the beam about 25 a position adjacent the line image formed by said 26 first lens group, and a second lens group, disposed

27 between the deflecting device and a surface to be

- P4 scanned, for imaging the deflected beam as a spot on
  - 2 the surface to be scanned. In such a light scanning
  - 3 apparatus, in order to prevent a main-scanning
- 4 position from varying in the sub-scan direction
- 5 resulting from wobbling of the deflected beam in the
- 6 direction corresponding to the sub-scan, which
- 7 wobbling is attributable to a mechanical error of the
- 8 deflecting device, the second lens group is an
- 9 anamorphic lens system having a fheta function, and the
- 10 deflected beam is imaged on the surface to be scanned
- 11 with respect to the main scan direction, and the
- 12 imaging position of the imaging by the first lens
- 13 group is made substantially conjugate with the surface
- 14 to be scanned (Japanese Patent Application Publication
- 15 Sho 52-28666, for example).
- 16 (PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED)
- Such a light scanning apparatus involves the
- 18 following problems.
- Referring to Figure 5, designated by
- 20 reference numeral 10 is a semiconductor laser as a
- 21 light source. A divergent beam from the semiconductor
- 22 laser 10 is collimated by a collimator lens 12 into a
- 23 substantially parallel beam and is incident on a
- 24 cylindrical lens 14, and the beam is imaged adjacent a
- 25 deflecting surface of a rotatable polygonal mirror 16
- 26 as a deflecting device, as a line image LI extending
- 27 in a direction corresponding to the main-scanning.

- P5 Namely, the collimator lens 12 and the cylindrical
  - 2 lens 14 constitute a first lens group.
  - 3 The beam reflected by the deflecting surface
- 4 of the rotatable polygonal mirror 16 is incident on
- 5 the anamorphic imaging lens 2 constituting the second
- 6 lens group, by which it is converged toward a surface
- 7 to be scanned 18. With the rotation of the rotatable
- 8 polygonal mirror 16, the beam optically scans the
- 9 surface to be scanned 18.0n the surface to be scanned
- 10 18, the direction indicated by reference character An
- 11 is the main scan direction, and the direction
- 12 indicated by reference character B is the sub-scan
- 13 direction. The main scan direction, as is well-known.
- 14 is the direction in which the spot formed by the
- 15 deflected beam moves when the light scanning is
- 16 carried out ideally y, and the sub-scan direction is a
- 17 direction which is perpendicular to the main scan
- 18 direction on the surface to be scanned.
- The beam deflected by the rotatable polygonal
- 20 mirror 16 is a parallel beam as seen in the sub-scan
- 21 direction, and is focused on the surface to be scanned
- 22 18 by the imaging lens 2.
- In addition, with respect to the sub-scan
- 24 direction, the imaging lens 2 is effective to make the
- 25 imaging position of the line image LI substantially
- 26 conjugate with the surface to be scanned 18.
- 27 Therefore, with respect to the sub-scan direction, the

- P6 line image L1 is focused on the surface to be scanned
- 2 18 of the imaging lens 2. In order to provide such an
- 3 anamorphic nature, the imaging lens 2 has to have a
- 4 large power in the sub-scan direction as compared with
- 5 the main scan direction.

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- 6 The imaging lens 2 is a so-called f $\theta$  lens
- 7 having a so-called f $\theta$  function.
- 8 When such an imaging lens is used, a
- 9 correction of the astigmatism in the sub-scan
- 10 direction is difficult because of the anamorphic
- 11 nature, with the result of the following problem.
- 12 Namely, the deflected beam is focused on the surface
- 13 to be scanned 18 both in the main and sub-scan
- 14 directions, so that scanning spot is formed on the
- 15 surface to be scanned 18. However, because the
- 16 correction of field curvature in the sub-scan
- 17 direction is difficult, a locus 5 of the beam imaging
- 18 point Q in the sub-scan direction (a imaging plane of
- 19 the sagittal rays) is curved and arcuate toward the
- 20 imaging lens 2. Then, the deflected beam from the
- 21 point Q toward the surface to be scanned 18 is
- 22 divergent in the sub-scan direction, and as more or
- 23 less exaggeratedly shown in Figure 5, the diameter of
- 24 the spot on the surface to be scanned 18 measured in
- 25 the sub-scan direction becomes gradually large as
- 26 shown by reference numeral 17 away from the optical
- 27 axis of the imaging lens 2 in the main scan direction

- P7 A, and therefore, the spot diameter is not uniform
  - 2 with respect to the main scan direction. For this
  - 3 reason, optical scanning is not possible with a high
  - 4 resolution exceeding 400dpi.
  - 5 Accordingly, the present invention is made in
  - 6 consideration of the circumstances, and it is an
  - 7 object of the present invention to provide a novel
- 8 optical scanning apparatus wherein the non-uniformity
- 9 of the spot diameter can be effectively reduced or
- 10 prevented.

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- 11 (MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM)
- 12 The description will be made as to the
- 13 present invention.
- The optical scanning apparatus according to
- 15 the present invention, defined in Claims 1 and 2
- 16 includes first and second lens groups, and a
- 17 deflecting device.
- 18 The first lens group functions to focus the
- 19 beam emitted from the light source to form a line
- 20 image extending in a direction corresponding to the
- 21 main-scanning.
- The deflecting device has a plurality of
- 23 deflecting surfaces, and functions to deflect the beam
- 24 about a position adjacent the imaging position of the
- 25 line image formed by the first lens group.
- The second lens group is disposed between the
- 27 deflecting device and the surface to be scanned, and

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P8 functions to focus the deflected beam into a spot on
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- 2 the surface to be scanned. The second lens
- 3 group is constituted by an anamorphic imaging lens
- 4 having a f $\theta$  property to function to image the
- 5 deflected beam on the surface to be scanned in the
- 6 main scan direction and to function to provide a
- 7 substantially conjugate relation between the imaging
- 8 position of the line image by the first lens group and
- 9 the surface to be scanned, and at least one surface
- 10 thereof is a field curvature correcting surface.
- 11 The field curvature correcting surface has a
- 12 lens power, in the sub-scan direction, which gradually
- 13 decreases away from the optical axis in the direction
- 14 corresponding to the main-scanning.
- The imaging lens which is the second lens
- 16 group may be a single lens, or may be a compound lens
- 17 including two or more lenses, and one or another
- 18 surface thereof may be aspherical.
- 19 In the optical scanning apparatus defined in
- 20 Claim 2, the power Po, in the sub-scan direction, of
- 21 the field curvature correcting surface of the imaging
- 22 lens which is the second lens group, and the power P
- 23 at the most peripheral portion with respect to the
- 24 direction corresponding to the main-scanning, satisfy
- 25 0.85<P/Po< 0.98....(1)
- 26 (FUNCTION)

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As described above, according to the present

- P9 invention, one or more surfaces of the lens surfaces
  - 2 of the imaging lens which is the second lens group are
  - 3 field curvature correcting surface or surfaces. Since
  - 4 the power of the field curvature correcting surface in
  - 5 the sub-scan direction gradually decreases away from
  - 6 the optical axis in the direction corresponding to the
  - 7 main-scanning, the locus 5 of the imaging point Q in
  - 8 the sub-scan direction of the deflected beam shown in
- 9 Figure 5 can be made placed close to or exactly on the
- 10 surface to be scanned 18.
- In the apparatus defined in Claim 2, the
- 12 power of the field curvature correcting surface in the
- 13 sub-scan direction satisfies the condition defined by
- 14 (1).

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- The power is defined as follows:
- The power Po on the optical axis is
- 17 Po  $\equiv \Sigma \{ (Ni+1-Ni) / Rxo \}$
- where Ni is a refractive index of a medium of
- 19 the deflecting surface side of i-th lens surface as
- 20 counted from the deflection surface side in the
- 21 imaging lens; Ni+1 is a refractive index of the medium
- 22 at the scanned surface (surface to be scanned) side of
- 23 the i-th lens surface; Rxi is a radius of curvature of
- 24 a lens surface in a cross-section of the i-th lens
- 25 surface taken along a plane which is parallel with a
- 26 plane parallel with the sub-scan direction and passing
- 27 through the optical axis; Rxo is the radius of

- P10 curvature where the cutting plane includes the optical 2 axis.
  - The power Pi outside the optical axis is 4 defined as:
  - 5 Pi  $\equiv \Sigma \{ (Ni+1-Ni) / Rxi \}$
  - 6 Here, P is Pi at the most peripheral portion
  - 7 of the lens surface in the direction corresponding to
  - 8 the main-scanning.
  - 9 Since the power of the field curvature
  - 10 correcting surface is so set as to gradually decrease
  - 11 away from the optical axis, P is the power in the
- 12 sub-scan direction at the end in the effective
- 13 aperture diameter with respect to the direction
- 14 corresponding to the main-scanning, and is the minimum
- 15 value among the powers in the sub-scan direction over
- 16 the direction corresponding to the main-scanning in
- 17 the effective aperture diameter of the imaging lens.
- 18 The condition (1) is concerned with a ratio
- 19 of the refracting power of the imaging lens in the
- 20 sub-scan direction at the central portion (on the
- 21 optical axis) and the power at the most peripheral
- 22 portion, and the fact that value of the ratio is
- 23 smaller than 1 means that refracting power at the
- 24 peripheral portion is lower than that at the central
- 25 portion.
- 26 If upper limit of the condition (1) is not
- 27 satisfied, the image surface in the sub-scan direction

- P11 tilts significantly toward the negative side to such
  - 2 an extent that image plane is not within a tolerable
  - 3 depth of focus. If the lower limit of the condition
  - 4 (1) is not satisfied, the image surface in the
  - 5 sub-scan direction tilts too much toward the positive
  - 6 side to such an extent again that image plane is not
  - 7 within a tolerable depth of focus.
  - 8 The condition (1) is determined independently
  - 9 from the f $\theta$  property and the field curvature in the
  - 10 main scan direction.

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- 11 The field curvature correcting surface may be
- 12 formed on each of two or more surfaces of the imaging
- 13 lens. When two or more surfaces are field curvature
- 14 correcting surfaces, said power is the consolidated
- 15 one, at the surface adjacent to the surface to be
- 16 scanned, of synthesized powers of the field curvature
- 17 correcting surfaces.
- 18 (EMBODIMENT)
- The description will be made as to specific
- 20 embodiments.
- 21 Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment of the
- 22 present invention. For the sake of simplicity, the
- 23 same reference numerals as with Figure 5 are used
- 24 unless any confusion might arise.
- The beam emitted from the light source 10 is
- 26 imaged as a line image LI extending in the direction
- 27 corresponding to the main-scanning at a position very

P12 close to the deflection surface of the rotatable

2 polygonal mirror 16 as a deflecting device by a

3 collimator lens 12 and a cylindrical lens 14 which

4 constitute a first lens group.

5 With the rotation of the rotatable polygonal

6 mirror 16, the beam is deflected about a reflecting

7 position of the deflection surface and is incident on

8 an imaging lens 20 constituting a second lens group,

9 and is converged toward the surface to be scanned 18

10 by the function of the lens 20.

In this embodiment, the field curvature

12 correcting surface is the incident side lens surface

13 20A of the imaging lens 20. The lens surface 20A will

14 be explained. In Figure 1, reference characters CAX,

15 CAY are circles of curvature in a direction

16 perpendicular to each other on the lens surface 20A.

17 The circles of curvature CAX, CAY both pass through

18 the optical axis of the imaging lens 20, and the

19 centers of the curvatures are on the optical axis.

The circle of curvature CAX is in a plane

21 including the optical axis and parallel with the

22 sub-scan direction B, and the circle of curvature CAY

23 is in a plane including the optical axis and parallel

24 with the main scan direction A. In the following, a

25 circle of curvature of an arcuation in a cross-section

26 of the field curvature correcting surface taken along

27 a plane which is parallel with a plane which is

- P13 parallel with the sub-scan direction and includes the 2 optical axis, is called a circle of curvature in the 3 sub-scan direction.
  - In Figure 1, CAXi depicts a circle of
  - 5 curvature, in the sub-scan direction, of the lens
  - 6 surface 20A at a position away from the optical axis
  - 7 in the direction corresponding to the main-scanning.
  - 8 The radii of curvatures of the circles of
  - 9 curvatures CAX, CAY, CAXi are Rxo, Ryo, Rxi,
- 10 respectively as shown in the Figure, satisfy the
- 11 following:

, <u>;</u>

- $12 \qquad \qquad \mathsf{Rxo} < \mathsf{Ryo} \ldots (2)$
- 13 Rxi > Rxo....(3)
- 14 Figure 2 illustrates the configuration of the
- 15 lens surface 20A. In the Figure, designated by
- 16 reference 20A1 is a curve obtained by translating the
- 17 center C of curvature of the circle of curvature CAX
- 18 to the configuration of the lens surface 20A. A curve
- 19 20C is a locus of the center of the circle of
- 20 curvature provided by moving the circle of curvature
- 21 of the lens surface 20A in the sub-scanning direction,
- 22 away from the optical axis in the direction
- 23 corresponding to the main-scanning (the vertical
- 24 direction in Figure 2).
- A distance  $\Delta C$  between the curve 20A1 and the
- 26 curve 200 increases away from the optical axis in the
- 27 direction corresponding to the main-scanning, and Rxi=

P14 Rxo+ $\Delta$ C. The lens surface curvature in the sub-scan

2 direction of the field curvature correcting surface

3 decreases away from the optical axis in the direction

4 corresponding to the main-scanning.

5 Referring back to Figure 1, the lens surface

6 20A which is the field curvature correcting surface

7 has a radius of curvature of the circle of curvature

8 in the main scan direction which radius is larger than

9 the radius of curvature of the circle of curvature in

10 the sub-scan direction, at the position of the optical

11 axis, and the radius of the circle of curvature in the

12 sub-scan direction increases away from the optical

13 axis in the direction corresponding to the

14 main-scanning.

Therefore, the positive power of the lens

16 surface 20A in the sub-scan direction is strong at the

17 optical axis portion, and gradually decreases away

18 from the optical axis in the direction corresponding

19 to main-scanning. Therefore, the power of the imaging

20 lens in the sub-scan direction as a whole is strong at

21 the optical axis portion, and gradually becomes weaker

22 away from the optical axis in the direction

23 corresponding to the main-scanning, so that field

24 curvature in the sub-scan direction is properly

25 corrected as a whole. As will be apparent when Figure

26 1 and Figure 5 are compared with each other, a locus

27 of an imaging point of the meridional ray is

P15 substantially the same as a main-scanning line in 2 Figure 1 as well as Figure 5, but in this embodiment, 3 the locus of the imaging point of the sagittal ray is

4 sufficiently close to the locus of the imaging point

5 of the meridional ray by the correcting effect of the

6 field curvature correcting surface 20A.

The configuration of the field curvature
8 correcting surface 20A in the direction corresponding
9 to the main-scanning may be a spherical surface or an
10 aspherical surface, and the field curvature in the
11 sub-scan direction can be properly corrected by design
12 of the field curvature correcting surface.

In the embodiment of Figure 1, the lens
14 surface 20A at the deflection side is used as the
15 field curvature correcting surface, but the lens
16 surface adjacent the surface to be scanned may be the
17 field curvature correcting surface. By doing so, the
18 correcting surface is a concave surface as seen from
19 the center of deflection, which means that angle
20 between the deflected beam and the normal line of the
21 lens surface is small, and therefore, the field
22 curvature in the sub-scan direction can be more easily
23 corrected. Figure 3 illustrates another embodiment.

Figure 3, (1) shows a portion between a 25 rotatable polygonal mirror and a surface to be scanned 26 18, as seen in the sub-scan direction, and Figure 3, 27 (11) shows the same as seen in the main scan

# P16 direction.

- 2 Designated by reference numeral 22 is an
- 3 imaging lens having a f $\theta$  function; and reference
- 4 numerals 22A, 22B are lens surfaces. In this
- 5 embodiment, the lens surface 22B adjacent the surface
- 6 to be scanned 18 is the field curvature correcting
- 7 surface, and lens surface 22A is an aspherical
- 8 surface. In Figure 3, designated by reference numeral
- 9 16A is a deflection surface of the rotatable polygonal
- 10 mirror.
- Radii of curvature RO, R1, R2 of the
- 12 respective surfaces (in the plane parallel with the
- 13 main scan direction An and including the optical
- 14 axis), Rxo (in the plane parallel with the sub-scan
- 15 direction B and including the optical axis), spaces
- 16 d0, d1, d2 between adjacent lens surfaces, and the
- 17 refractive indices NO, N1, N2, are defined as shown in
- 18 Figure, then the base data are as follows:

19

20	i	R1	d1	<b>N</b> 1
91	^		FF 0	4 0

21 0 - 55.0 1.0

22 1\* 312.0 25.0 1.486

23 2 -118.38 175.28 1.0

24

25 f=184. 3, F<sub>NO</sub>=61. 4

26

The lens surface 22A is an aspherical surface

```
P17 as described hereinbefore. As is well known, an
  2 aspherical surface is defined as follows.
                                                   When X-axis
  3 is the optical axis; Y- and Z-axes are perpendicular
  4 to the X-axis with the intersection between the
  5 aspherical surface and the optical axis being the
  6 coordinate origin; h^2 = Y^2 + Z^2; and the radius of
  7 curvature on the optical axis is
              R (= R1); then, X= (1/R^2) h<sup>2</sup>/[1+\sqrt{(1+K)}
  8
  9 (h/R) <sup>2</sup>] +A4h <sup>4</sup>
           +A6h <sup>6</sup> +A8h <sup>8</sup> +A10h <sup>10</sup> +....
 10
              It is defined by a conical constant K and
 11
12 non-spherical coefficients A4, A6, A8, A10.
13
              In this embodiment, they are:
14
              K=-4.18988, A4=-1.71785 \cdot 10^{-7}, A6=4.32095 \cdot 10^{-11}
15 A8=-1. 00374\cdot^{-14}, A10=1. 12332\cdot10<sup>-18</sup>
16
             The lens surface 22B is defined by the
17 following.
18
             Rxi=Rxo+bY^2+cY^4+...
19
            where Rxi is a radius of curvature of a circle
20 of curvature in the sub-scan direction; Rxo is the
21 radius of curvature on the optical axis, and Y is a
22 coordinate in the direction corresponding to the
23 main-scanning, perpendicular to the optical axis when
24 the intersection between the lens surface 22B and the
25 optical axis is the coordinate origin.
             The radius of curvature of the circle of
26
27 curvature in the main scan direction is R2=-111.38 as
```

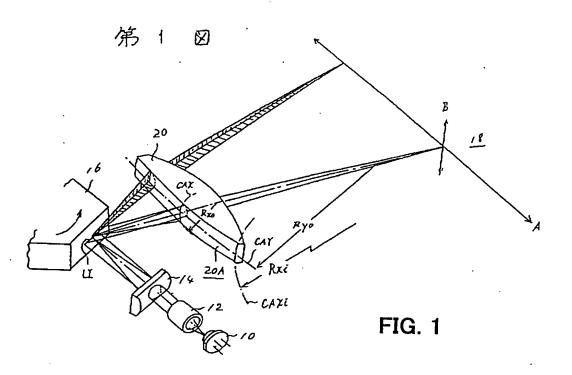
00 3 .

```
2
             Rxo, b and c are as follows:
 3
 4
             Rxo
                               b
 5
             -25. 995
                      -7.31906 \cdot 10^{-4} 6. 94199 \cdot 10^{-8}
 6
 7
             Rxi and Pi/Po for Y are as follows:
 8
 9
             Υ
                      Rxi
                                 Pi/Po
10
             0
                    -25. 995
                                 1.0
11
             5
                    -26. 013
                                 0.999
12
                                 0.997
             10
                    -26.068
13
             15
                    -26. 156
                                 0.994
14
             20
                    -26. 277
                                 0.989
15
             25
                    -26. 425
                                 0.984
16
             30
                                 0.977
                    -26. 597
17
             35
                    -26.787
                                 0.970
18
                   '-26.988
                                 0.963
             40
19
                    -27. 192
             45
                                 0.931
20
21
             For image height H= 108mm, Y=41.06.
22 Rx=-27. 03, P/Po= 0. 962.
23
24
             In Figure 4, there are shown aberration
25 diagrams of Figure 3 embodiment. Left hand diagram
26 shows the spherical aberration SA and sine condition
27 SC of the imaging lens 22, and the central diagram
```

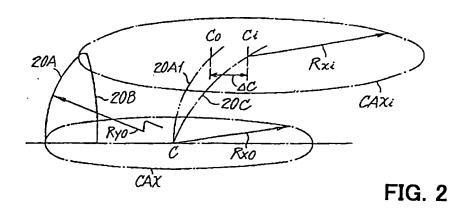
P18 stated above.

- P19 shows the astigmatism SA. In the astigmatism diagram,
  - 2 the broken line is the astigmatism in the main scan
  - 3 direction, and the solid line is that in the sub-scan
  - 4 direction. The right-hand diagram shows a fheta
  - 5 property. As will be apparent from the aberration
  - 6 diagrams, the imaging lens 22 of Figure 3 embodiment
  - 7 exhibits a very good fheta property, and the correction
  - 8 of the field curvature in the sub-scan direction is
  - 9 also very good.
- 10 (ADVANTAGEOUS EFFECT OF THE INVENTION)
- 11 These and other objects, features and
- 12 advantages of the present invention will become more
- 13 apparent upon a consideration of the following
- 14 description of the preferred embodiments of the
- 15 present invention taken in conjunction with the
- 16 accompanying drawings.
- 17 As described in the foregoing, a novel
- 18 optical scanning apparatus can be provided. In the
- 19 optical scanning apparatus, the imaging lens which is
- 20 the second lens group has the f $\theta$  property has the
- 21 field curvature correcting surface, and the field
- 22 curvature in the sub-scan direction is corrected by
- 23 the field curvature correcting surface, and therefore,
- 24 the variation in the spot configuration on the surface
- 25 to be scanned can be effectively suppressed or
- 26 prevented, and therefore, the optical scanning
- 27 apparatus can be used for optical scanning with such

```
P20 high resolving power as 400-800dpi.
  2
  3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:
             Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment of the
 5 present invention: Figure 2 illustrates a
 6 characterizing portion of the embodiment: Figure 3
 7 illustrates another embodiment: Figure 4 is aberration
 8 diagrams corresponding to Figure 3 embodiment: and
 9 Figure 5 illustrates the problem to be solved by the
10 present invention.
11
            10: light source:
            12: collimator lens:
12
13
            14: cylindrical lens:
            16: rotatable polygonal mirror as deflecting
14
15 device:
16
            20, 22: imaging lens as second lens group
            20A, 22B: lens surfaces as field curvature
17
18 correcting surface
19
            Applicant: (223) Kabushiki Kaisha SANKYO
20 SEIKI Seisakusho.
21
```



第 2 図



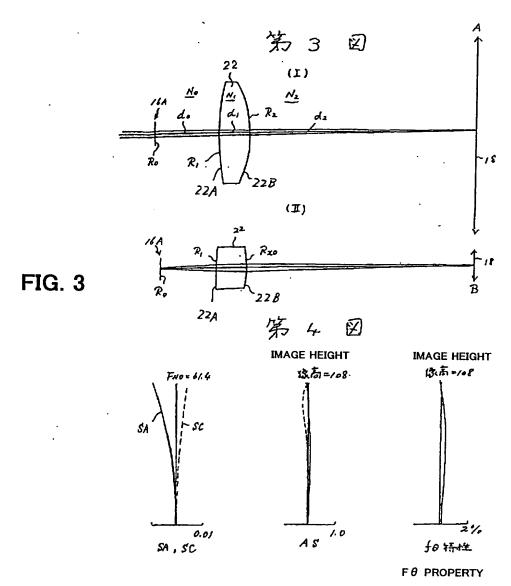


FIG. 4

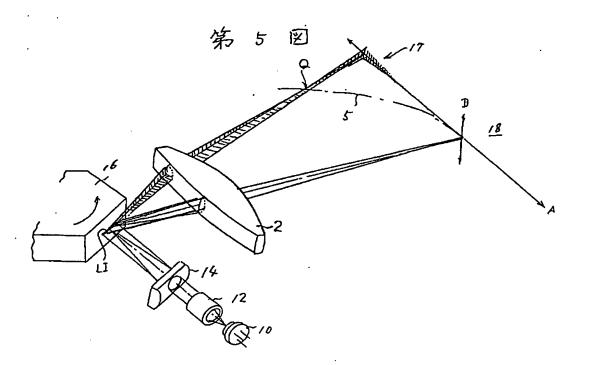


FIG. 5

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① 特 許 出 願 公 開

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明者 ⑫発 久 保 田 長野県諏訪郡下諏訪町5329番地 株式会社三協精機製作所

洋 治

饱発 明 者 井 利 上 坴

山梨県北巨摩郡須玉町若神子200番地 日新工機株式会社

山梨工場内

@出 願 人 株式会社三協精機製作

所

個代 理 弁理士 渡辺 秀治 長野県諏訪郡下諏訪町5329番地

発明の名称

光走查装置

### 特許請求の範囲

1. 光源と、この光源からの光東を主走査対応方 向に長い線像に結像させる第1レンズ群と、複数 の偏向面を有し上記第1レンズ群による上記線像 の近傍を偏向の起点として光束を偏向させる偏向 装置と、この偏向装置と走査面との間に配備され 偏向光束を走査面上にスポット状に結像させる第 2 レンズ群とを有し、

上記第2レンズ群は、f B 特性を備えた結像レ ンズであり、主走査方向に関して偏向光束を走査 面上に結像させるとともに、副走査方向に関して は上記第1レンズ群による線像の結像位置と走査 面とを略共役な関係とする機能を有し、少なくと も1面が像面湾曲補正面として形成され、

上記像面荷曲補正面は、主走査対応方向に於い て光輪から離れるに従って、副走査方向のパワー が次第に減少するように形成されていることを特

徴とする光走査装置.

2. 請求項1に於いて、第2レンズ群である結仏 レンズの像面湾曲補正面の副走査方向のパワーを 光軸上でP。、主走査対応方向の最周辺部分でPと するとき、これらP。,Pが、

0.85<P/Po<0.98

なる条件を満足することを特徴とする、光走査装

発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、光走変装置に関する。

(従来の技術)

光源と、この光源からの光束を主走査対応方向 に長い線像に結像させる第1レンズ群と、複数の 偏向面を有し第1レンズ群による上記線像の近傍 を偏向の起点として光束を偏向させる偏向装置と、 この偏向装置と走査面との間に配備され偏向光束 を走査面上にスポット状に結像させる第2レンズ 群とを有する光走査装置は良く知られている。

このような光走変装置では偏向装置の機械的な誤

2

差に起因する、編向光東の副走査対応方向への「ぶれ」による主走査位置の副走査方向への変動を防止するために、第2レンズ群を、 f θ 機能を持つアナモフィックなレンズ系とし、主走査方向に関しては偏向光東を走査面上に結像させ、副走査方向に関しては第1レンズ群による線像の結像位置と走査面とを略共役の関係にすることが行われている(例えば、特公昭52-28668号公報)。

(発明が解決しようとする課題)

a 1

このような光走査装置には、以下の如き問題があった。

第5図で、符号10は光源としての半導体レーザーを示す。この半導体レーザー10からの発散性の光東はコリメートレンズ12により略平行な光東とされてシリンドリカルレンズ14に入射し、偏向装置としての回転多面頗16の偏向面の近傍に主走査対応方向に長い線像LIとして結像する。即ち、コリメートレンズ12とシリンドリカルレンズ14とは、第1レンズ群を構成している。

回転多面鏡16の偏光面により反射された光束は、

3

f θ機能を有する。

このような結像レンズを用いると、上記のアナモフィックな性格のため副走査方向での非点収差の補正が困難となり、以下の如き問題が生ずる。

即ち、偏光光束は、結像レンズ2により主・副 走査方向とも上記の如く走査面18上に結復し、こ れにより走査面18上には光走査用のスポットが得 られる。しかし副走査方向の像面湾曲の補正が困 難であるところから、副走査方向に於ける光束結 像点Qの軌跡5(サジタル光線の結像面)は図の 如くに円弧状に結像レンズ2の側へ溶曲してしま う。すると、上記Q点より走査面18個へ向かう偏 向光束は副走査方向に於いて発散性となるから、 第5図に多少誇張して示すように、走査面18上の スポットは、主走査方向Aに於いて結像レンズ2 の光軸を離れるに従って符号17により示すように 副走査方向のスポット径が次第に大きくなってし まい、スポット径が主走査方向に於いて均一にな らない。このため400dpi以上のような高分解能の 光走査を行うことができない。

競いて第2レンズ群を構成するアナモフィックな 結像レンズ2に入射し、関レンズ2の作用に転 査面18に向かって集取し、回転多面鎖16の回転に 伴い走査面18を光走査する。走査面18に於いて符 号Aで示す方向が主走査方向、符号Bで示す方向 が副走査方向である。主走査方向は周知の如く、ポ 火走変が理想的に行なわれるとき偏向光東の 火走変が理想的に行なわれるときの 、ポ シトが移動する方向である。 上で主走査方向と直交する方向である。

回転多面鏡16により偏向される偏向光東は、副 走査方向から見ると平行光東であり、結像レンズ 2により走査面18上に結像する。

また、結像レンズ 2 は、副走変方向に関しては 上記線像LIの結像位置と走変面18とを略共役の関係としている。 従って副走変方向に関しては上記 線像LIの像が、結像レンズ 2 により走変面18上に 結像する。このようなアナモフィックな性格を持 つためには結像レンズ 2 は、主走変方向に比して 副走変方向のパワーが大きくなければならない。

なお、結像レンズ2は所訂f 0 レンズであって

4

本発明は上述した事情に鑑みてなされたものであって、その目的とする所は、上記スポット径の 不均一を有効に軽減ないし防止しうる新規な光走 変装置の提供にある。

(課題を解決するための手段)

以下、本発明を説明する。

本発明の光走査装置は請求項1,2の装置とも、 光源と、第1,第2レンズ群と、偏向装置とを有 する。

第1レンズ群は、光源からの光東を主走査対応 方向に長い線像に結像させるためのレンズ群であ る。

偏向装置は、複数の偏向面を有し、第1レンズ 群による線像の結像位置の近傍を偏向の起点とし て光束を偏向させる装置である。

第2レンズ群は、この偏向装置と走査面との間 に配備され偏向光東を走査面上にスポット状に結 像させるレンズ群である。

この第2レンズ群は、f 0 特性を備えたアナモフィックな結像レンズにより構成され、主走査方

向に関して偏向光東を走査面上に結像させるとと もに、副走査方向に関しては第1レンズ群による 線像の結像位置と走査面とを略共役な関係とする 機能を有し、少なくとも1面が像面溶曲補正面と して形成される。

上記像面複曲補正面は、主走査対応方向に於いて光頼から離れるに従って、副走査方向のパワー が次第に減少するように形成される。

第2レンズ群である結像レンズは、単レンズで あっても良く、あるいは2枚以上の複合レンズで あっても良く、更にこれらのうちのいずれかの面 を非球面で形成しても良い。

さらに、請求項2の光走変装置では、上記像面 湾曲補正面の副走査方向のパワーを光輪上でP。、 主走査対応方向の最周辺部分でPとするとき、こ れらP。,Pが、

0.85<P/P。<0.98 (1) なる条件を満足する。

(作用)

 $a_{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r$ 

本発明では、上述の如く第2レンズ群である結

7

 $P_{i} \equiv \Sigma \{ (N_{i+1} - N_{i}) / R_{X,i} \}$ 

で定義される。上記Pは、Piのうちでレンズ面の 主走査対応方向の最周辺部分に於ける値である。

像面褶曲補正面のパワーは光軸を離れるに従って次第に減少するように設定されるから上記Pは、結像レンズに於ける有効開口径の主走査対応方向の婚部における副走査方向のパワーであって、有効関口径中における副走査方向のパワーの最小値である。

条件(1)は、アナモフィックな結像レンズが削 走査方向に持つ屈折力の中心部(光軸上)と最周 辺部における比を表し、この比の値が1より小さ いのは、周辺部の屈折力が中心部より弱いことを 意味する。

上記条件(1)の上限を越えると、副走査方向の 像面が負の側に大きく倒れ、許容される像面深度 内に入らない。また、条件(1)の下限を越えると 、 副走査方向の像面が正の側に倒れすぎ、矢張り許 容される像面深度からはずれてしまう。

なお、この条件(1)はf θ 特性、主走査方向の

像レンズのレンズ面の内の1面以上が像面溶曲箱 正面として形成されている。この像面溶曲補正面 は、主走室対応方向に於いて光軸から離れるに従って、副走室方向のパワーが次第に減少するよう に形成されるので、第5回に示す偏向光東の副走 変方向の結像点Qの軌跡5を走空面18に近接ない しは合致させることができる。

また、請求項2の裝置では、像面湾曲補正面の 副走査方向のパワーが上記条件(1)を満足する。

パワーは、以下の様に定義される。

即ち、結像レンズに於いて偏向面側から第1番目のレンズ面の、偏向面側の鉄質の屈折率をNi.、この第1番目のレンズ面の走査面側の鉄質の屈折率をNi.、上記第1番目のレンズ面を、光軸を通り副走査方向に平行な面と平行な平面で切断したときの切断面におけるレンズ面の曲率半径をRx,とし、上記切断面が光軸を含むときの上記曲率半径をRx。とするとき、光軸上のパワーP。は、

Po≡[{(N1.1-N1)/Rxo}

と定義され、光軸外部分でのパワーPiは、

8

像面荷曲とは独立に決定される。

また、像面液曲補正面は結像レンズの2以上の面に設けても良い。2以上の面を像面溶曲補正面とした場合、上記パワーは、各像面溶曲補正面のパワーを合成したものを、走査面側の面に集約させたものを意味するものとする。

(実施例)

以下、具体的な実施例に即して説明する。

第1図は、本発明の1実施例を説明するための図である。繁雑を避けるため混同の恐れがないと思われるものに付いては第5図におけると同一の符号を用いている。

光源10からの光東は第1レンズ群を構成するコリメートレンズ12とシリンドリカルレンズ14により偏向装置としての回転多面競16の偏向面の極近傍に主走査対応方向に長い線像LIに結像する。

回転多面鏡18の回転に伴い、上記偏向面による 反射位置を偏向の起点として偏向された偏向光東 は、第2レンズ群を構成する結像レンズ20に入射 し、同レンズ20の作用にて走査面18に向かって集

9

束し、間面18を光走査する。

この実施例に於いて像面海曲補正面は、結像レンズ20の入射側レンズ面20Aとして形成されている。このレンズ面20Aに付き説明すると、第1回に於いて符号CAX,CAYはレンズ面20Aにおける、互いに直交する方向の曲率円を示している。これら曲率円CAX,CAYは何れも結像レンズ20の光軸を通り、その曲率中心は何れも光軸上にある。

曲率円CAXは光軸を通り副走査方向Bに平行な、 平面内にあり、曲率円CAYは光軸を通り主走査方向Aに平行な平面内にある。以下、光軸を通り副 走査方向に平行な平面に対し平行な平面で像面溝 曲補正面を切断した場合の切り口の円弧に係る曲 率円を副走査方向の曲率円という。

第1図で符号CAXiは、光軸から主走変対応方向 へ離れた位置におけるレンズ面20Aの副走変方向 の曲卒円を示している。

これら曲率円CAX,CAY,CAXiの曲率半径を図の如く、Rxo,Ryo,Rxiとすると、レンズ面20Aは、

Rxo < Ryo.....(2)

11

っている。

なお、像面溶曲補正面2014の主走変対応方向の 形状は球面もしくは非球面とすることができ、像 面溶曲補正面の設計次第で、副走変方向の像面溶 曲を適宜に補正できる。

第1図の実施例では、偏向面側のレンズ面20A を像面清曲補正面としたが、走査面側のレンズ面 Rxi > Rxo ..... (3)

を満足するようにして形成されている。

第2図は、レンズ面20Aの形状を説明するための図である。図中、符号20A1はレンズ面20Aの形状へ山平円CAXの曲率中心Cの位置を平行移動した曲線を示している。また、曲線20Cはレンズ面20Aの副走査方向の曲率円が光軸を主走査対応方向(第2図上下方向)に離れるに従って、曲率円の中心が描く軌跡を表している。

第1 図に戻ると、像面液曲補正面であるレンズ面 20kは、上記の如く光軸位置に於いては主走変方向の曲率円の曲率半径が副走変方向の曲率円の 曲率半径より大きく、副走変方向の曲率円の半径 は主走変対応方向へ光軸を離れるに従い大きくな

12

を像面溝曲補正面としても良い。このようにすると、この補正面は偏向の起点側から見て凹面であり、レンズ面法線に対して偏向光東のなす角が小さいので、副走査方向の像面湾曲をより容易に補正することが可能となる。

第3図は、別の実施例を説明するための図である。第3図(I)は、回転多面質と建変面18との即の部分を副建変方向から見た状態を示し、周図(II)は主建変方向から見た状態を示している。

符号22はfの機能を持つ結像レンズ、符号22A,22Bは各レンズ面を示す。この実施例では走査面1800のレンズ面22Dが像面薄曲補正面として形成されており、レンズ面22Aは非球面に形成されている。第3図で符号18Aは回転多面鏡の偏向面を示す。

各面の曲率半径Ro,R1,R1(主走査方向Aに平行で光軸を含む面内),Rxo(副走査方向Bに平行で光軸を含む面内)、面間隔do,d1,d1、屈折率No,N1,N1を図の様に定めると、これらの元のデータは、以下の通りである。

í	R,	d:	N s
0	. <b>-</b>	55.0	1.0
1*	312.0	25.0	1.488
2	-118.38	175.28	1.0
f=184.3 ,F <sub>NO</sub> =61.4			

レンズ面 2 2 A は、前述の通り非球面である。非球面は周知の通り、光軸に一致させて X 軸をとり非球面と光軸の交点を原点として X 軸に直交させて Y , Z 軸をとり、h²=Y²+Z²とし、光軸上の曲率半径を R (=R<sub>1</sub>)とするとき、

 $X = (1/R^{2}) h^{2}/[1+\sqrt{(1+R)(h/R)^{2}}] + h_{4}h^{4} + h_{5}h^{6} + h_{4}h^{4} + h_{10}h^{10} + \cdots$ 

で与えられ、円錐定数K、非球面係数A4,A6,A4,A

この実施例で、これらの値は、

R=-4.18988, A<sub>4</sub>=-1.71785·10<sup>-7</sup>, A<sub>6</sub>=4.32095·10<sup>-11</sup>
, A<sub>6</sub>=-1.00374·10<sup>-14</sup>, A<sub>10</sub>=1.12332·10<sup>-14</sup>
である。

また、レンズ面 22Bは、その別走変方向の曲率 円の曲率半径Rxxが、その光軸上での値をRx。とし、

15

40	-28.988	0.963
45	-27.192	0.931

像高H=108mm に対して、Y=41.08,R<sub>X</sub>=-27.03,P/Po=0.962である。

第4図に、第3図の実施例に関する収差図を示す。左の図は結像レンズ22の球面収差SAと正弦条件SCを示し、中央の図は非点収益ASを示す。非点収差の図に於いては破線が主走査方向、突線が副走査方向のものである。また、右の図は£0特性を示す。これらの収差図から明かなように、この第3図の実施例では結像レンズ22は極めて良好な£6特性を持ち、則走査方向の像面湾曲も極めて良好に補正されている。

## (発明の効果)

以上、本発明によれば新規な光走登装置を提供できる。この光走登装置では、第2レンズ群であるf 6 特性をもつ結像レンズが像面湾曲補正面を有し、この像面湾曲補正面で副走査方向の像面湾曲を補正するので、走査面上のスポット形状の変助を有効に軽減ないし防止でき、従って400~800

レンズ面 22Bと光軸の交点を原点として光軸と 直 交する主走査対応方向の座標を Y として、

Rzi=Rxo+bY\*+cY\*+----

で与えられ、主走査方向の曲率円の曲率半径は上述のR<sub>2</sub>=-111.38である。

上記Rxo,b.cは、

Rzo	ь	c
-25.995	-7.31906 - 10 - 4	6.94199.10-4
で与えられる。		

Yの各値に対する上記Rxiの値とR/P。の値を以下に示す。

Y	Rzi	P <sub>2</sub> /P <sub>o</sub>
0	-25.995	1.0
5	-26.013	0.999
10	-26.068	0.997
15	-26.156	0.994
20	-26.277	0.989
25 .	-28.425	0.984
30	-28.597	0.977
35	-26.787	0.970

16

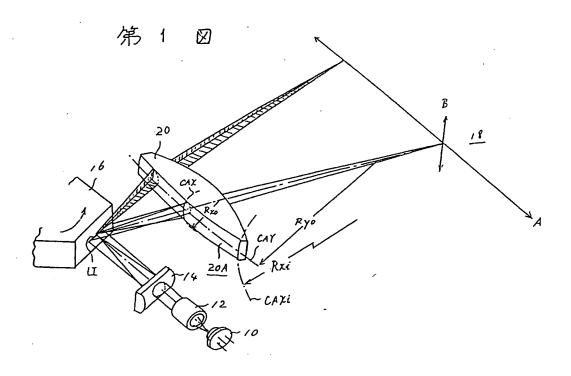
dpiという高分解能の光走査にも対応することができる。

### 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は、本発明の1実施例を説明するための図、第2図は、上記実施例の特徴部分を説明するための図、第3図は、別実施例を説明するための図、第4図は、第3図の実施例に関する収整図、第5図は、発明が解決すべき課題を説明するための図である。

10...光源、12...コリメートレンズ、14...シリンドリカルレンズ、16...偏向装置としての回転多面鏡、20,22...第2レンズ群である結像レンズ、20A,228...像面溶曲補正面として形成されたレンズ面

出願人 (223)株式会社三協精機製作所



**第**2 ☑

